WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Telephone connections to senior citizens

*361. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether senior citizens are provided telephone connections on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications received by Government from senior citizens for new telephone connections during January, 2002, in Gaya, Bihar, in general and Delha Mohalla in particular; and

(d) by when these applications would be cleared and installation of telephones completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Senior citizens of the age of 65 years and above are entitled to register their demand for one telephone connection under Non-OYT Special category, which is given priority over general category. Further, they are also exempted from payment of registration charges for registering their demand for new telephone connection.

(c) The number of applications received during January, 2002 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) from senior citizens in Gaya Town of Bihar including Delha Mohalla is 28. Number of applications particularly from Delha Mohalla is 4.

(d) These applicants are likely to be provided telephone connections by June, 2002.